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Atty Docket No. DSP/MINCHIOTTI

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) An in vitro method to induce differentiation of a stem cell into a cardiomyocyte, wherein the stem cell is exposed for a period of time and in effective amounts to soluble form of the Cripto protein, which Cripto protein comprises at least an EGF domain and a CFC domain, and wherein exposure is not achieved by genetic expression of the Cripto protein in the stem cell.

24. (New) The in vitro method according to Claim 1 in which the C-terminal hydrophobic terminus of the soluble form of the Cripto protein is replaced by a His tag sequence.

25. (New) The in vitro method according to Claim 1 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the sequence of human Cripto protein.

26. (New) The in vitro method according to Claim 1 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the sequence of mouse Cripto protein.